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2 September 1983

WORLDWIDE REPORT

EPIDEMIOLOGY

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OVER 40 FAMILY GUIDANCE CLINICS SERVE CAPITAL, PROVINCES

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 6 Aug 83 p 3

[Text] As many as 244786 women in the centre and provinces have benefited from the various enlightenment and propaganda programmes provided by the Family Guidance Association.

This is said by Aisha Amir, Secretary-General of the family guidance association to the reporter of the KABUL NEW TIMES.

"Family guidance association was established in 1968 (1347 HS) in Kabul. Its main aims are to ensure the health of mother and child, to lower the level of their rate of death through establishing necessary gap between consecutive births, and introduction of various methods for regulation of expectancy periods in the mothers. Moreover, the society guides the husbands and wives in having children at proper times, enlightens the families to observe sanitary and nutritious measures, regulates economic affairs and finally helps families ensure prosperity in our country", she noted.

Right after its commencement, the family guidance association started its services through three central clinics, but later due to extension of its activities, more new clinics came about in the centre and provinces.

At the moment, the society has 43 clinics in the centre and provinces.

These clinics are functioning side by side with child and mother health care clinics and health centres.

The society receives its funds, cash and kind, and budget from the International Family planning Federation of which it is a member.

Answering another question, she said: "Since the cornerstone of the services accomplished by this association is comprised of health services, therefore it should have close contacts with the similar organisations as well.

Regarding this necessity, the family guidance association furthers its activities with the collaboration of the Children and Mother Care clinics.

Most of the women seek consultation and help or those who desire to apply methods for expectancy regulating periods, or want to establish gap between births receive treatment here. Also those who suffer lack of children can be treated to some extent here.

The department has propaganda, clinics, training, census, foreign relations and finance departments and also an office for evaluating applied methods and their effects.

Each department is of special importance for carrying its tasks efficiently.

The department for propaganda and publication has the duty to render publicity services through mass media, screening film strips, carrying on all propaganda in the clinics and residential houses and the propagating of the aims and benefits of family planning.

The department has recruited 72 publicists who are responsible for carrying out propagative tasks.

The Department of clinics is responsible for applying various types of contraceptive methods in the centre and provinces. Making use of 21 permanent nurses of the society and professional personnel of the annexed clinics of the Child and Mother Health Care, the family guidance association endeavors to apply various methods on the patients and elevate their problems.

In this department some mini operations and tubligations are also carried out. Likewise, the department of training always has striven to train

professional personnel of the public health ministry including doctors and nurses of the Child and Mother's Health Care clinics and that of the health centres especially those serving in the annexed clinics of the society. As last year's data of the department indicate that in the third group a total of 191 personnel were trained by the department. In the fourth group 119 mid wivers were also trained in various fields.

In its fifth group of trainees, the department has trained 40 laboratory technician vaccinators and others.

Professional personnel of the department whether doctors, nurses or publicists, receive inservice training in family planning and other fields.

The main job of the census directorate is to collect data on the number of patients who receive contraceptive devices, their side effects and short comings and counts those incidents in which women bear child after treatment.

The Foreign Relations and Finance directorate is responsible for furthering affairs of the administration and finance, ensuring and developing relations between the society and the international aid giving institutions; and in the mean time takes care of the harmonization of the programmes and drawing annual performance report.

Touching upon the performances carried out last year she noted.

The department has distributed various contraceptives devices to patients and applied various methods on 197300 persons who sought treatments in the previous year. Of this number, 16479 were new comers while 90821 others were recurrent patients.

In the same period 137486 persons have benefited from enlightenment and propagative programmes of the department. They were visited at the clinics, at homes, and at the hospitals, and were informed of the basic objectives of the family guidance association.

In the current year's plan and that of the coming years, taking in view the three-years plan of the department with the help of child and mother health care department, in view of the health services and solving the health problems of the families, new clinics will be opened in the centre and provinces. A central conciliate for families and a centre for infertility will soon be established within the framework of the department,, she said.

CASES OF SUSPECTED AIDS BRING CALL FOR TASK FORCE

Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 27 Jun 83 p 1

[Article by Ralph Sharman]

[Text] A CALL for a national symposium of doctors to discuss acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) has been made by Sydney's homosexuals following the disclosure of at least 19 suspected cases of the incurable and generally fatal illness in Australia.

The recently established five-man AIDS action committee, representing the homosexual community, decided on the move yesterday at a meeting to discuss the latest figures.

Seventeen of the suspected cases have been reported in Sydney, one in Melbourne, and another from the Queensland Gold Coast.

The NSW figures were confirmed by Dr Allan Crawford, chairman of the NSW Department of Health's recently established scientific medical committee to study AIDS.

Dr Crawford said that since an alert on the disease in Australia earlier this year, there had been one confirmed case, five "high degree" suspected cases, and 12 "low degree" suspected cases.

He said the 17 NSW suspect cases had been reported from the Royal North Shore Hospital, the Westmead Centre, Concorde Hospital, and St Vincent's Hospital.

Dr Crawford said all the low degree suspected cases had been reported this month.

But despite the figures, there was no evidence to suggest an outbreak of the disease.

"More people are becoming aware of symptoms associated with AIDS because of publicity, and they are simply being studied as possible cases.

"This, of course, boosts the figures and makes the disease appear as though it is getting out of control", he said.

Dr Crawford said the five high degree suspected cases could not be confirmed for several months. All were males.

Dr John Wells, senior staff specialist in clinical immunology at Royal North Shore Hospital, which has taken the lead

in AIDS detection, agreed with Dr Crawford that sus-

pected cases were rising because of more inquiries.

He said he was receiving several phone calls a week from doctors worried about suspected AIDS patients.

"We have had only one confirmed case in Australia so far," he said.

In the US, 3000 AIDS victims have been diagnosed since 1981, including 20 women in the past six months. Five children have contracted the disease.

Mr Terry Goulden, a spokesman for the Sydney AIDS action committee, said he believed a national conference of doctors to discuss AIDS could help to stop "the panic over the disease".

Mr Goulden said the committee had formed a delegation to talk to the Federal Minister for Health, Dr Neil Blewett.

The committee, which says it represents about 500,000 gay people in NSW, described as "silly and absurd" proposals by the Festival of Light Director, Rev Fred Nile, to close all gay bars, discos and saunas.

CSO: 5400/7591

PLANS READY TO DEVELOP MALARIA VACCINE LOCALLY

Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 22 Jun 83 p 2

[Article by Jane Ford]

[Text]

A GENETICALLY engineered malaria vaccine is to be developed in Australia, rather than overseas, following agreement between Melbourne's Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and two of Australia's main bio-technology research companies.

The agreement, to be signed soon between the Hall Institute, Bio-Technology Australia Ltd and the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, is seen as the first step in establishing a commercial bio-technology industry in Australia.

It could lead to the eventual development of a multi-million dollar vaccine industry and has the potential to make a substantial impact on the world's number one parasitic disease. About 200 million people suffer from malaria world-wide.

It follows the recent announcement by a team from the Hall Institute that it had isolated antigens from the deadliest malaria strain, *Plasmodium Falciparum*. These antigens stimulate the body's defence mechanism against the disease. Their identification opens the way for the development of a vaccine for malaria and other parasitic diseases.

The work is being done in close co-operation with the Papua-New Guinea Institute of Medical Research at Madang, which has been providing carefully selected blood samples — containing antibodies to

the malaria parasite — from people resistant to the disease, as well as samples of the malaria parasite from victims of the disease.

Using these antibodies, it has been possible to identify the appropriate malaria antigen that induced the resistance.

At first it was feared commercial development would have to go overseas, as did the Howard Florey Institute's recent Relaxin advance which is to be developed by Genentech in the United States. But the three groups are convinced the work can be done in Australia.

Swamped

Development of the vaccine is likely to be costly — between \$17 million and \$20 million — and they are hoping for federal financial support through the recently announced National Bio-Technology program.

The leader of the Hall Institute team, Dr Graham Mitchell, said that ideally they would like an initial \$1 million grant this year to continue the scale-up of the work.

"It is important to move very quickly," he said. "There is a lot of competition from overseas and if we are to develop a commercial vaccine, we need to be first in the field if we are not to be swamped by overseas products."

He said if all goes well it will take at least five years to de-

velop and he believes final world-wide marketing would have to be arranged through an international pharmaceutical company.

The plan is to buy Bio-Technology Australia, which is 70 per cent owned by CRA, to give further impetus to industrial research and development on the malaria antigens and the technology to produce them in large quantities.

CSL, which is Australia's main pharmaceutical company with extensive experience in commercial drug production and marketing, would then scale-up the work to a commercial level.

The research director of Bio-Technology Australia, Dr David Harrison, said it is important to retain the rights in Australia.

"If possible, we want to keep production here and make sure that a fair share of the profits flow back into Australia," he said.

Bio-Technology Australia is also involved in a number of other development projects on advanced vaccines for agricultural and human use. Dr Harrison believes the techniques developed by the Hall Institute will also be extremely useful in the development of these products.

Dr Mitchell said the next stage of the work will be to develop a vaccine for testing on monkeys. This would have to be carried out at the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. He hopes

the trial vaccine will be ready for testing by the end of this year.

Trials

If this proves successful, the work will be scaled-up and a prototype vaccine developed for clinical trials on humans. This could take a further two to three years and the trials would need to be carried out in a malarial area, such as Papua-New Guinea.

Dr Mitchell said there were a number of problems to be overcome. Tests on monkeys could show that the vaccine was only effective on one strain of malaria found in Papua-New Guinea. Then further work would be required to find a universal vaccine.

"We have to be careful about raising expectations. Malaria, in the past, has proved to be very difficult to combat," said Dr Mitchell. "However, progress towards the vaccine has been spectacular so far and we are feeling very optimistic about the possibilities."

Interest

The breakthrough has created wide interest overseas and a number of international biotechnology companies have expressed a desire to develop the vaccine. Dr Mitchell said his group was determined, as far as possible, to develop the vaccine in Australia.

One important motivation is to provide a new tool to com-

bat the disease in Third World countries. He said it was essential that these people, particularly in Papua-New Guinea, have access to a vaccine at a reasonable price.

The Australian team faces strong competition from the US, where a New York University team has announced a similar development involving a different stage of another type of malaria in monkeys.

Dr Mitchell said the Australian work is at least at the same stage and he believes the final development of a world-wide vaccine would probably require collaboration between various research groups around the world.

CSO: 5400/7591

EXAMINING COUNCIL TO RELAX RULES ON FOREIGN DOCTORS

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 22 Jun 83 p 2

[Article by Amanda Buckley]

[Text]

CANBERRA. — The Australian Medical Examining Council is to relax its rules for admitting foreign doctors to medical practice in Australia.

The English language test will be redesigned and separated from the written medical examination and candidates will be able to sit for the test as many times as they wish. Previously candidates who failed the test three times were disqualified from the examination.

The council's secretary, Mr Pat Fisher, said yesterday there had been much adverse press publicity surrounding the difficulty of the English test and the way the examination operated. He said the changes had been approved at a recent meeting of the council in Hobart.

A working party would be set up to review the written questions set to test general medical knowledge, to ensure their validity and their relevance to the general practice of

medicine in the Australian community, and there would be improved counselling services for unsuccessful candidates, he said.

Since the examining council was set up in 1978 only about 30 per cent of foreign applicants have been successful. A total of 602 foreign practitioners have sat the council's examination and only 178 doctors from 33 different countries have been granted the certificate entitling them to full registration.

Australian States have different rules for the admission of foreign doctors. All States admit, without question, doctors with British and New Zealand qualifications. All States, except South Australia, accept Irish doctors. Tasmania accepts South African and Canadian doctors.

All other foreign doctors are referred to the AMEC for examination and many have difficulty with the tests.

No Filipino doctors have passed the AMEC examination, despite 25 applicants since 1978. Of 137 applications by Indian doctors, only 45 have passed.

Professor Eric Saint, the chairman of AMEC, said yesterday Australia had a stake in maintaining its medical standards.

He said, however, that the council wished to reduce the level of anxiety many candidates had with the tests and that was why the council had approved changes to examinations.

Candidates at present must pass a written examination and a clinical examination. They can not proceed to the clinical test until the written test is passed.

The written test is divided into two parts. The first consists of three short written tests of English comprehension with time limits. The second is a three-hour multiple-choice paper containing 150 questions.

The council, an independent body, is made up of the presidents of the eight State and Territory medical boards, two senior medical educationists and one nominee of the Australian Medical Association.

Its main function is to appoint a panel of experienced examiners — 16 from five States—to conduct the examinations for foreign doctors.

CSO: 5400/7591

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

HERPES BLOOD TEST--A new Australian biotechnology company yesterday announced a fast and reliable blood test to detect or confirm genital herpes. It is thought to be a world first. Melbourne-based Gentech Australia Pty Ltd is already making the product, called Simplex-2, and plans to export it worldwide. Simplex-2 is the result of five years' research by Dr John May, of Latrobe University's microbiology department. Dr May said yesterday the problem in detecting genital herpes by blood test had been that almost everyone carried the simple herpes virus--the cold sore bug--previously indistinguishable from the genital herpes virus. "We have now cleared out the problem with the cold sore virus and can tell if someone has genital herpes," he said. "We can pick up the antibodies to herpes II, away from the background of the general herpes virus." Dr May said he understood the rights to his discovery had been passed to Gentech in return for further Gentech contributions to the university's herpes research. He was working on a vaccine. A spokesman for Gentech, Mr John Gillespie, said the new test was an important step in the fight against the highly contagious disease--one of the world's fastest-growing sexually transmitted diseases. Mr Gillespie said the new test only involved taking a blood sample and sending it to a pathologist for examination. [Kim Lockwood] [Text] [Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 30 Jun 30 p 3]

CSO: 5400/7591

BRIEFS

DHAKA INFLUENZA OUTBREAK--Influenza commonly known as "Flu" has broken out in the city and its neighbour hood in an epidemic form. The number of patients attending the out patient departments and the private practioners has increased considerably. The disease pattern has changed this year. However, doctors have said that influenza virus changes its strain each year consequently the signs and symtoms of the disease also change. [Remainder of item illegible.] [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 7 Jul 83 pp 1, 8]

CHOLERA IN NILPHAMARI--Nilphamari, July 14--Two Persons died of cholera in village Mirzaganj under Domar thana in Nilphamari Subdivision in last two days. It is learnt that two persons of a family were also attacked by the disease. When contacted Nilphamari Civil Surgeon said that they knew nothing about the disease. No medical team moves in the affected area, it is alleged. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 17 Jul 83 p 2]

MORE CHOLERA REPORTED--Cholera is going to break out in Bhandaria upgraded thana for the 3rd times. One person died of and 85 persons were attacked by it in past 15 days. The stock of salaine is nill at the Deputy Civil Surgeon Office. 35 persons died of and 886 persons were attacked by the disease in last February here. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 19 Jul 83 p 2]

CSO: 5400/7144

CHILE

BRIEFS

HEPATITIS CASES REPORTED--Vallenar (Jaime Rivera)--Twelve cases of hepatitis have been noted in the "Bambi" kindergarten that operates in the town of Hermanos Carrera in this city. The epidemic spread to an assistant in the same establishment who became infected after it was known that two other children had symptoms of that disease. In the face of anxiety expressed by parents of children who attend that kindergarten and by neighboring sectors, an investigation of the matter was started, first by contacting the regional branch of kindergartens, with headquarters in the city of Copiapo. In the absence of the person in charge, the coordinating technician, Hirma Cortes, indicated that she was aware of the situation and "that we are waiting for instructions from the director and information regarding steps that have been taken so far to control the disease." In Vallenar Dr Ricardo Jara Paredes, who serves the municipality, acknowledged the presence of the disease in the above mentioned sectors and pointed out that "in Chile there are no vaccines against that disease and that in order to try to prevent the disease, gamma globulin is necessary, a medicine which is not available in either the municipal departments or in the hospital." As of closing time in this office further information was received at the regional levels and an answer is being awaited from the administrative office concerning arrangements for winter vacations for the kindergarten, thus avoiding an increase in the disease. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 20 July 83 p C-3] 8255

CSO: 5400/2107

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

MALARIA DEATHS ON PACIFIC COAST--CALI. (De Jairo Ortiz Campo)--A total of 80 persons have died in Pacific coast areas so far this year, as a result of malaria and other parasitic diseases. This is what was said by employees of the National Service for Malaria Eradication (SEM), an organization under the Ministry of Health, in their public opinion denouncement of the government's indifference and lack of attention to this matter that threatens to become worse. The report, which bears the signatures of the sectional board of directors of the National Association of Employees of the Ministry of Public Health (ANDEMINSAP), says that "it seems to us that health is a right that belongs to the people and that the government should see to its fulfillment, but it must also make sure that those who perform this service, in this case SEM employees, have good working conditions." [Test] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 14 Jul 83 p 10-A] 8255

CSO: 5400/2109

MEASURES URGED TO CONTROL MALARIA OUTBREAK

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 25 Jul 83 p C-10

[Article by Rafael Diaz Ycaza]

[Text] There is a dangerous increase in malaria. Despite the valiant efforts of the National Service to Eliminate Malaria (SNEM) and the support lent to this institution by the Undersecretary of Health for Region 2, this mortal enemy of the Ecuadorans is advancing. The main allies of the attack are the rains and their subsequent floods, the overflowing of rivers which turn houses into marshy dwellings, the pools of water and other breeding grounds for mosquitoes. It might be said that St. Peter "went mad" and forgot to close the heavenly gates.

The primary and largest focal point is Esmeraldas, including its lovely capital. Another zone that is being devastated is Manabi: the persistent tertian fevers which progressively waste its victims are testimony to the passage of this ancient Attila. In the province first cited alone there have been more than 3 thousand cases detected. Of these, it is calculated that fifty percent could be fatal if the Malaria Service does not treat them in time, as it is trying to do despite limited available resources.

Let's stop just a moment to think about the thousands of anonymous men whose huts are discovered lost in the mountains, next to roads opened one day by the tenacious machete and closed the next by the fertile hand of the tropics. Let's consider these Carusoes of suffering who go into the villages only when God permits and the rain lifts its curtains.

It is true that the SNEM has had the ability to enlist an army of 6,000 brigade volunteers. For no pay they take blood samples from the feverish victims and give them pills to stop the malaria symptoms. Assuredly because of them it is as if the antimalaria campaign had multiplied its eyes and hands. But also certain is that malaria will continue spreading if the efforts are not increased to spray the pools, homes and other mosquito breeding grounds in the hot and humid zones.

Without meaning to be an alarmist, but rather out of a pure desire to be of service, we stress that the surge of malaria is spreading to Manabi, all of Manibi, to Quevedo, El Carmen, Naranjito, Bucay and El Triunfo.

Although the SNEM had never been able to completely eliminate malaria, it did contain and control it. But now with the increased virulence of the disease, to which is added the growing difficulty to import the insecticides required by the emergency, the outlook is bleak. Not only have insecticide prices rapidly increased with the unusual increase in the dollar, but each day it becomes harder to obtain DDT. Local importers no longer want to extend credit as they did before, for readily understood reasons. Also, the production of DDT in the U.S., the primary manufacturer, has dropped notably since its laboratories no longer make it for agricultural use, but only for health purposes.

This threat, or better this aggression, against the survival of our people merits all the financial and personal sacrifices we can make. Malaria will be controlled and defeated in a relatively short period of time if all the ministries--primarily finance--contribute to facilitate the importation of insecticides.

9730

CSO: 5400/2112

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

TYPHOID CASES REPORTED--Numerous cases of typhoid and malaria have been detected in the city of Portoviejo by doctors in private practice who have reported them to the health authorities, who in turn have already initiated all possible actions to control an epidemic outbreak. At first skin irritations from fungus and insect bites were seen. Now contagious diseases are involved which require greater care, not only on the part of the health authorities, but also on the part of the residents of the affected zones, which are the outlying districts. So far the sectors reportedly having the greatest incidence of these diseases are: La Punonda, San Cristobal, the San Jose enclave, San Pablo district and the Pacheco enclave. [Text]
[Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 25 Jul 83 p C-10] 9730

CSO: 5400/2112

BRIEFS

CHICKEN POX IN PRISON--Alarming reports coming out of the Georgetown prison state that the institution is threatened by a chicken pox epidemic. Eight prisoners succumbed to the disease in two days. Up to June 17 nine prisoners in all were known to be affected--four in the capital section, four in the remand section and one in the solitary section. All of the pox victims are now in the "brick" prison, in the section where inmates with "social" diseases and mental illnesses are held. Apart from this segregation, not even basic emergency measures have been taken to contain the spread of this highly contagious disease. No anti-contamination steps have been carried out. Victims and non-victims continue to use the same facilities and utensils. No special treatment is being given to the victims. Unconfirmed reports state that the Georgetown Hospital refused to admit the first victim three weeks ago because that institution feared the outbreak of the chicken pox epidemic within its own walls. [Text] [Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 20 Jun 83 p 4]

CSO: 5400/7952

LACK OF FUNDS HITS PLAN TO CHECK MALARIA

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Jul 83 p 14

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 5.

THE strategy of funding the national malaria eradication programme (NMEP), with the Union government and the states sharing the cost equally, has suffered in implementation.

Some states are unable to provide matching share for buying insecticides, vehicles, spray pumps and the like. As a result, the spray operations are inadequate.

This is particularly so as the programme requires constant supervision not only of spray operation but also of case detection and treatment.

The mobility of the supervisory tier being crucial the programme could not be carried out effectively for want of roadworthy vehicles which were required to be bought by the states. Some states also do not get timely sanction for appointing seasonal workers for spraying.

SPREAD ARRESTED

It is recognised that there cannot be any let-up in the programme even if figures point to a decline in the spread of the disease. For, after the incidence had come down to a bare 100,000 cases, there was a resurgence and the incidence touched the peak level of 6.16 million in 1976.

According to the ministry, the Union government does not want the

programme to suffer for want of funds. The current year's budget allocation for the programme is Rs. 59 crores — an increase of Rs. 6.4 crores over that of last year. The programme was entirely Centrally-sponsored until 1979-80.

Since 1976, when there was a sudden resurgence of the disease and the ministry started its modified plan of operation, the incidence has come down gradually.

As part of the plan all areas with annual parasite incidence are under regular indoor residual insecticidal spray. Fortnightly surveillance is carried out. Entomological components have been attached with the 72 NMEP zonal organisations for assessing the susceptibility status of the vector mosquito to commonly used insecticides like DDT, BHC, Malathion.

Laboratory services have been decentralised at the primary health centre level for prompt examination of blood smear and institution of treatment without any time lag. For difficult terrain and hilly areas the surveillance component has been augmented. Emphasis is on the supply of life-saving chloroquine tablets. The drug has been made available not only through the governmental agencies but also through village health guides.

To control the fatal cerebral malaria, a *P. falciparum* containment programme with Swedish and World

Health Organisation assistance is introduced.

Infection of this type of malaria has shown resistance to chloroquine. Monitoring teams are working in six different areas to undertake testing of alternative drugs wherever resistance to chloroquine has been detected in the *P. falciparum* strains.

MANPOWER TRAINING

Steps are being taken to train manpower for tackling this disease. Previously the Malaria Institute of India, since converted into the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), used to run a course in malariology. The number of courses have been increased. Two regular courses are now held in malariology and one in medical entomology. Besides the regional office for health and family welfare also train other workers employed in NMEP.

The urban malaria scheme was started in the year 1971-72 in three towns. At present this scheme is protecting about 4.3 million people from malaria as well as other mosquito-borne diseases in 125 towns. Seven more towns will be covered during the current year.

Statistics available with the health ministry point to 22.4 per cent decline in incidence in 1982 (2.08 million cases) compared to the previous year.

CSO: 5400/7138

INDIA

BRIEFS

CHOLERA IN BHATINDA--BHATINDA, July 7 (UNI)--Cholera has broken out in epidemic form in the town and its surrounding areas, with unconfirmed reports placing the death toll at six. According to hospital sources here, dozen of cholera patients have been brought to various hospitals in the town. A team of doctors vaccinated hundreds of people in the town against the disease. According to reports available here, alleged mixing of sewerwater in a drinking water tank in the Quila area had aggravated the situation. [New Delhi, PATRIOT in English 8 Jul 83 p 5]

SMALLPOX DEATH DENIED--The National Institute of Communicable Diseases has said that no case of smallpox reappeared in Patna recently. An investigation was conducted by the institute following reports in a section of the press that a girl with smallpox was admitted to a Patna Hospital recently. A team of doctors was sent to carry out the investigation, reports PTI. However, the test carried by them at the National Small Pox Reference Laboratory showed that it was not a case of small pox. In fact, official sources, said no death due to small pox has been reported since 1975. In that year, 1,436 cases and 196 deaths had been reported. The maximum number of small pox cases were detected in 1951 when 94,580 people out of 2,53,332 afflicted with the disease died. The number of deaths came down to 17,116 in 1952 and 9,072 in 1953. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Jul 83 p 8]

CSO: 5400/7140

GASTROENTERITIS REPORTED IN WEST SUMATRA

Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 27 Jul 83 p 9

[Text] Dr Firdaus Bahaudin, the head of the communicable diseases control section of the West Sumatra health service, announced on Monday that there have been 62 cases of vomiting and diarrhoea (gastroenteritis) reported on Mentawai island since the middle of June. Ten of the victims have died.

A report submitted by the Padang/Pariaman district physician, Dr Nazaruddin, SKM, after returning from a medical mission to Mentawai said, "The cause of the outbreak is not clear. It is similar to a cholera epidemic but it is definitely not cholera."

The outbreak began in Sipora subdistrict on Mentawai on 13 June last, however, because of the difficulty in establishing contact with the Pariaman district capital (on the West Sumatra mainland) the medical mission headed by Dr Nazaruddin did not leave for Sipora until 28 June.

Dr Firdaus Bahaudin said that the terrain on Mentawai is very difficult and that the medical team had to use a boat powered with an outboard motor and follow foot trails to reach the target area. He said it cost Rp 500,000 to send the mission, not counting the cost of medications.

Padang Municipality

In Padang some 1,100 cases of gastroenteritis have been recorded since January 1983. Four persons who did not receive treatment have died.

Reports received by various district health services for the period from the beginning of January to date show a total of 1,732 cases of gastroenteritis and 41 deaths of both adults and children.

Padang has the highest incidence of cases. It is followed by Pasaman with 482 cases and 27 deaths, Padang/Pariaman with 82 cases and 5 deaths (excluding the recent outbreak on Mentawai), Pesisir Selatan with 84 cases and 4 deaths, Sawahlunto with 44 cases and 1 death, and Solok with 30 cases and no deaths. Data from other districts have not been received.

5458

CSO: 5400/4461

BRIEFS

MALARIA IN CENTRAL MALUKU--Ambon, 1 Jul (ANTARA/OANA)--About 80 villagers on Gorkom Island, East Seram District, Central Maluku, were killed by malaria since the disease attacked the area in the middle of last month, while thousands became ill, seriously or lightly. The disease first attacked Kilkoda village south of Corong Island, killing 25 people. From Kilkoda, the disease spread to the villages of Araan, Bas, Miran, Tinaring, Rarat, Adar, Usun, Buan, Kulungoa, Kinali, Namalean, Skaru, Aroa, Dadaa, and Rumcon, killing 35 people, and causing illness to thousands. The disease later further spread to the western part of the island, attacking the villagers of Sambolo, Kataloka, Oudor, Dullak, Dai, Kelebingan, Nida, Tunas, Undur, and Armawatu, leaving 10 dead, and hundreds became ill. For the lack of medicines, many villagers on Gorom Island evacuated to Ambon for immediate medical care. About 40 percent of the total population of 17,000 on Corong Island, were attacked by malaria. [Excerpt] [Jakarta ANTARA in English 0840 GMT 1 Jul 83]

SOUTH KALIMANTAN RABIES DEATHS--Rabies has killed six people and affected another 87 in south Kalimantan, where the disease now threatens eight of the ten regencies in the province, the daily Surabaya Post reported today. Reports reaching here said that at least 200 people had been newly affected by rabies in the last three weeks in West and Central Java, South Kalimantan and South Sulawesi, Sumatra. [Kuching SARAWAK TRIBUNE in English 11 Jul 83 p 13]

CSO: 5400/4460

FIVE CASES OF AIDS CONFIRMED IN COUNTRY

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Jul 83 p 9

[Text] Five cases of AIDS--the mysterious fatal disease that has reached epidemic proportions in America--have been confirmed in Israel. And the numbers are likely to grow as doctors here become more aware of the symptoms, Prof. Thomas Spira, one of the world's leading experts on the disease, said in a recent interview with THE JERUSALEM POST.

Spira, head of the Clinical Immunology Laboratory at the Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, is in Israel to lecture on the subject and make a full study of the known cases here. He was a guest of the Technion's Faculty of Medicine.

He gave one lecture on AIDS--Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome--at the Rambam Medical Centre and was also asked to speak to the Israel association of homosexuals. Male homosexuals are most at risk from the disease which is transmitted by sexual contact and blood contamination.

Spira has been investigating AIDS since it was first discovered in the U.S. in 1981. Inquiries revealed that there were incidences of it two years earlier; no occurrences were reported prior to 1979.

At first there were only a handful of AIDS cases, but then the numbers began to mount. At present the rate is doubling every six months. Spira said that 1,700 AIDS sufferers have been reported in America since 1979. Nearly 40 percent of them are already dead. Other cases have been detected in Europe, Central Africa and Haiti.

There is no known cure for the disease, according to Spira, and the prognosis for patients suffering from a severe form of it is very poor.

"The mortality rate is already as high as 80 to 90 per cent, and people who have developed a severe form of the disease have a life expectancy of a maximum of three years," he says.

Despite intensive investigations, very little is known about AIDS.

"We believe that the immune deficiency is caused by a transmissible infectious agent, possibly a virus. As yet we have been unable to identify it and we have no specific diagnostic tests to check if somebody has been exposed to this agent.

"We don't know if this is a new agent, a mutation, or something that existed before in other countries that we just never heard about." Says Spira, "It may even be an animal disease that has been passed on to humans.

"The disease appears to be transmitted sexually, or through blood transfusions or intravenous injections, as in the case of drug addicts. We do have some child patients who we think inherited the disease from their mothers, who were either drug addicts or Haitians. There are also a few children who appear to have caught the disease through receiving blood transfusions."

Spira says that AIDS decreases one's ability to fight infection so that victims develop a variety of severe parasitic, fungal or viral infections which--in most cases--ultimately prove fatal. These infections include pneumonia, meningitis, skin cancer and blood poisoning. Another symptom of the disease is brownish-red to purple spots or lumps appearing on the body.

Some 90 per cent of American's AIDS victims are between the ages of 20 and 50. About 70 per cent of the known sufferers are homosexual males, 15 per cent are drug addicts, five per cent are Haitian immigrants, and one per cent are haemophiliacs. It is thought that AIDS in the latter cases was caused by the use of a special serum, manufactured in the U.S. that replaces the missing coagulant in haemophiliacs' blood.

Spira adds that the few cases thought to be caused by blood transfusions have caused a wave of hysteria in America with the result being that blood donations have dropped by up to 30 per cent.

"Actually there is absolutely no risk of catching the disease through a blood donation and the risk of exposure through a blood transfusion is also minimal--probably one in a million," he explains.

Nevertheless, the Centres for Disease Control has advised homosexuals not to donate blood for fear of transmitting the disease.

Spira says that the staff at the Centres is trying to keep track of all known AIDS cases throughout America and the rest of the world to build up its knowledge of the disease.

"Our aim to is to discover if it is a new problem, the extent of it, and find the cause. Once we have established the cause, we can work on possible treatments."

He admits, however, that the discovery of the cause may still be a long way off. One of the main hopes for stemming the advance of AIDS lies in education: "That is one of the main purposes of my visit to Israel--to increase awareness of the disease which will in turn make diagnosis easier."

Spira says he knows of only five cases in Israel so far but he expects more to come to light.

"If the trend follows that in America, then we can expect to see more and more cases--not just here, but in the rest of the world."

The Israeli cases--which include at least one haemophiliac and one thought to be related to a blood transfusion--came to the attention of the Centres for Disease Control during a visit here by American doctors to investigate the collapse of Arab schoolgirls in Judea and Samaria.

During his visit, Spira met with Prof. Zvi Bentwich, of the Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot, and Prof. Dan Michaeli of Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, which are co-ordinating the research diagnosis and treatment of AIDS in Israel.

CSO: 5400/4527

PERU

BRIEFS

BUBONIC PLAGUE DEATHS--Lima, 21 July (ANSA)--About 20 persons died in recent days as a result of an epidemic of bubonic plague in the districts of Chocan, Ambacal, and Gigante in the northern province of Ayabaca that has been seriously affected by a vast and prolonged flood. The information was published by the evening tabloid, EXTRA, which indicates that in that region there have been plagues from rodents infected with the Yersin bacillus. The above mentioned tabloid also warned of the serious danger that the epidemic might spread, even to Lima, and it therefore calls for strict health control at all entrances to this capital. [Text] [Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 22 July 83 p 9] 8255

MALARIA OUTBREAKS UNDER CONTROL--Epidemic outbreaks of malaria in the northern part of our country are completely under control, said Minister of Health Juan Franco Ponce yesterday during an impromptu interview that he granted journalists in San Juan de Dios Hospital, in Callaro. He said that epidemic outbreaks did occur, but that they did not reach the "catastrophic" indexes that were specified in a recent television program. "Apparently," he added, "the version was based on alarmingly exaggerated information." He said that if there had been a malaria epidemic that was as extensive as portrayed in those indexes, it would have resulted in enormous mortality, but the fact is that mortality from that disease was low, which contradicts the alarming figures that were given. He added that what is certain is that necessary steps have been taken in connection with the matter, and the so-called epidemic has been properly controlled. [Text] [Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 July 83 p 4] 8255

CSO: 5400/2108

H-FEVER EPIDEMIC IN ILOILO CITY LEAVES 4 DEAD, 70 ILL

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 16 Aug 83 pp 1, 17

[Text]

FOUR persons have died and 70 others have fallen ill since a suspected H-fever epidemic hit Iloilo City two weeks ago, the Ministry of Health said yesterday.

Two of the fatalities were students, it was learned. The victims suffered from sudden rise in temperature with fever lasting for seven days, intense headache, joint and muscle pain, and rashes, the symptoms of H-fever.

The carrier of the disease — also known as dengue or breakbone fever — is the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. The disease cannot be transferred directly from man to man.

In Pototan, Iloilo, meanwhile, an outbreak of diarrhea killed two persons and downed 40 others, the ministry's disease intelligence center reported. In nearby Dumagas, there

were 14 reported cases of the gastro-intestinal disease.

Dr. Julio Valera, DIC chief, said the hospitals in the affected areas were instructed to administer preventive measures and distribute oral rehydration powder free to the victims, most of whom come from poor families.

THE SALE *** of fish in Samar and Leyte, meanwhile, is still practically zero even as health and natural resources officials keep assuring the people that the "red tide" infestation is over. The ban is only for collecting shellfish in the mussel farms, they said.

Reports reaching the MOH yesterday showed that public markets in Leyte, considered as the center of distribution of seafoods caught in the Visayan seas, has not been selling fish for almost a month now.

The residents told officials the fish may have been caught from Maqueda bay, where the poisonous algae were first sighted. They reportedly refuse to buy the fish even if told these came from "safe" fishing grounds.

Fourteen persons have died and 196 others have fallen ill after eating fish and mussels contaminated with the poisonous algae.

CSO: 5400/4467

DIC REPORTS 4 DEAD, 216 HOSPITALIZED DUE TO DIARRHEA

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 2 Aug 83 p 28

[Text]

Four people died and 216 others were hospitalized last week due to diarrhea, the Disease Intelligence Center (DIC) of the Ministry of Health reported yesterday.

Two of those who died were from Lucena City and the rest from Roxas City.

Dr. Julio Valera, DIC chief, noted an increase of diarrhea cases from the previous week's 211 cases. The level, he said, is lower than the five-year median of 391.

A total of 194 cases who were hospitalized at the San Lazaro hospital were from Metro Manila. The rest were

from neighboring provinces and cities.

Diarrhea was also noted in Amulung, Cagayan, with four cases; Bacolod City, 50; Dagupan, eight; Jagma, Bohol, 13; Aparri, Cagayan, 18; Lucena, 13; and Roxas, 21.

Typhoid fever was also observed to increase from the previous week's 13 cases to last week's 24.

The level, Valera said, is higher than the five-year median of 11. All patients were from Metro Manila.

The incidence of measles increased by five cases last week from the previous week's 23 cases.

CSO: 5400/4457

FIRST TWO CASES OF 'KAWASAKI DISEASE' DETECTED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 3 Aug 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The first two cases of "Kawasaki disease," an ailment afflicting infants and young children, has been detected in the country.

The first case is a one-year and 10-month old girl from Quezon City admitted to the Philippine General Hospital for fever and rashes. The other was a three-year-old child from San Juan, Metro Manila, who was brought to a private hospital for fever.

This was learned yesterday from a report of Dr. Perla D. Santos Ocampo, chairperson of the department of pediatrics of the University of

the Philippines, College of Medicine; Dr. Edgardo E. Ortiz, consultant of the UP Department of Pediatrics; and Dr. Evelyn M. Dolor, pediatrician of the Medical Center of the Philippines and the Capitol Medical Center.

Kawasaki disease,

named after the Japanese pediatrician who first described the disease in infants and young children in 1971, is also known as the mucotaneous lymph node syndrome (MCLS).

According to scientific studies, the disease has reached epidemic proportions in Japan with a recorded 18,000 cases. Annually, some 2,700 new cases have been detected by the Japanese research committee of MCLS.

Described as "a new pediatric enigma," the Kawasaki disease has also been reported in Australia and several countries in North America and Europe.

The disease is common among children between nine and 12 months old in Japan and about three years old in the United States.

Although recovery

from the disease is usually good, death has occurred in one or two per cent of reported cases, mostly due to myocardial infraction or stuffing of the middle muscular layer of the heart wall secondary to the inflammation of the arteries.

Among the principal signs of the disease are fever lasting one to two weeks, unresponsiveness to antibiotics, and congestion of the mucous membrane lining the inner surface of the eyelids.

Also observed are changes in the hands and feet, such as reddening of the palms and soles, swelling, and membranous peeling from the fingertips.

Dryness, redness and cracking of the lips, prominence of the upper surface of the tongue, and reddening of the oral-pharyngeal mucous membrane are also seen.

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

EL TOR EPIDEMIC DEATHS REPORTED--A team of doctors from the Cebu City Health Department and PC-INP civic action operatives visited recently hinterland barangay Lusaran in Central Cebu to assist an ill-stricken populace of the area. Many resident had recently complained of gastro-intestinal or respiratory ailments. At least three were confirmed dead from spreading El Tor epidemic at the area. This was revealed in a telephone interview with Major Benjamin Wahing, Commanding officer of the Civil Military Operations Unit (CMOU) of the RECOM 7 PC-INP. [Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 24 Jul 83 p 3]

CSO: 5400/4456

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE SEES NO NEED TO TEST FOR AIDS

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 21 Jul 83 p 31M

[Article by Pamela Kleinot]

[Text] South Africa has so far not found it necessary to screen blood donors as there appears to be no transmission of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids) in this country, according to a spokesman for the South African Blood Transfusion Service.

The spokesman said he disagreed with Professor E B Dowdle, of the University of Cape Town who said homosexuals should be barred from donating blood until it had been shown there was no risk of Aids being transmitted by blood transfusion.

"The whole question of whether Aids can be transmitted in blood is still debatable," he said. "We are not worried about it at this stage, but are constantly on the alert."

There have been no further confirmed cases of Aids in South Africa since the disease claimed the lives of two SAA stewards early this year.

The spokesman said concern rose in the United States when several haemophiliacs contracted Aids.

"So far it has not been a problem in South Africa, where there are more than 1 000 haemophiliacs who have received hundreds of thousands of transfusions. Not one case has been found among them," he said.

He pointed out that the two men who died in South Africa contracted the disease overseas.

No blood is imported from overseas. About 500 000 units of blood are transfused in the country yearly.

"Blood is donated voluntarily in South Africa and we check whether donors are in good health," he said. "At this stage we do not find it justified to ask their sexual preferences."

The spokesman said that, although there were tests to detect whether there were hepatitis or certain venereal diseases in the blood, there was not test to detect Aids.

Aids--which is spread through sexual contact--has killed about 600 Americans since the first cases of the mysterious and deadly disease were diagnosed in the US in 1979.

The disease breaks down a victim's natural defences, making him easy prey for lethal illnesses.

CSO: 5400/320

NEW AIDS WARNING TO HOMOSEXUALS REPORTED

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 1 Aug 83 p 2M

[Article by Pamela Kleinot]

[Text]

Eight homosexuals in South Africa, five of whom were associated with a patient who died from AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), have been found to have acquired immunosuppression — abnormalities of cell-mediated immunity (CMI).

This has been disclosed by University of Pretoria researchers who warn homosexuals that promiscuity could lead to them developing the mystery killer disease AIDS which breaks down a victim's natural defences, making him easy prey for lethal illnesses.

In a article in the South African Medical Journal the research team say that their study has confirmed overseas reports that the severity of the immunological abnormalities is related to the degree of promiscuity.

They also warn that drugs commonly used by homosexuals such as marijuana, cocaine and amyl and butyl nitrite may also be immunosuppressive.

"On the basis of our findings an immunological classification system of potential AIDS sufferers in the male homosexual community is proposed," they said.

The primary cause of AIDS is unknown but the common denominator in cases is the presence of serious immunosuppression — a severe acquired deficiency of cell-mediated immunity.

The team studied the

"immunological status" of 10 homosexual men after two South Africans died from AIDS this year.

There were no abnormalities in two of the men — aged between 21 and 59 years.

Abnormalities were found in eight of the men including one who confessed to the occasional use of amyl nitrite.

"Assuming that this group is representative, South African homosexual men are therefore similar to their counterparts in the United States in that many are likely to be partially immunosuppressed," the article said.

More than 600 Americans have died since AIDS hit the US in 1979. These have been mainly homosexual and bisexual men with some cases reported among drug-abusers, haemophiliacs and Haitian immigrants.

NEW STRAIN OF FLU FOUND IN JOHANNESBURG

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 14 Jul 83 p 4M

[Article by Pamela Kleinot]

[Text]

A new strain of flu known as A-Philippines has hit South Africa.

The A-Philippines strain was discovered in Johannesburg last week, says Professor Barry Schoub, director of the National Institute for Virology, an international flu reference centre.

Although flu has reached epidemic proportions in certain parts of the country it is impossible to determine how many people have been affected.

Flu is not a notifiable condition.

Professor Schoub said the new strain "does not appear to be extraordinarily virulent" but urged people who were at risk, such as the frail elderly, those suffering from chronic lung and

heart diseases or any other chronic debilitating disease, to be immunised.

The present vaccine will give considerable but not complete immunity to the new strain, he said.

Thousands of people succumb to flu each winter, but there is no cure for this viral infection.

The best thing to do is go to bed and wait for it to go away.

Patients can take medicines to relieve its symptoms which include headache, fever, joint and muscle pains.

Flu poses little risk to healthy people, but there is a danger of complications, such as bronchitis and pneumonia, when the virus strikes the frail elderly and others who are at risk.

Although the A-Philippines strain was found in South Africa only last week, the World Health Organisation was alerted about it in February. A flu strain is named after the locality in which it is first isolated and new strains are incorporated into existing vaccine.

"Flu will never be eradicated," says Professor Schoub.

New strains replace old ones.

As people build up immunity, the virus disappears and is replaced by a new strain to which they are not immune.

An attack of flu gives a person immunity to that strain — but not to a new strain which follows later, Professor Schoub said.

WARNING NOTES TUBERCULOSIS RISE AMONG IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 4 Aug 83 p 28

[Article by Lasse Granestrand]

[Text] Watch for tuberculosis among children!

The Social Welfare Board sent this warning to health agencies throughout the country. The board recommends the vaccination of newborn children in several high-risk groups. This means primarily children of parents who immigrated from countries in which tuberculosis is more common than in Sweden.

In 1975 the obligatory vaccination of newborn children against tuberculosis was discontinued. Between 1975 and 1982, 42 cases of tuberculosis were reported. Twenty two children born in Sweden of foreign parents have been struck by the disease.

The Social Welfare Board concluded that reintroduction of the obligatory vaccination of newborn children was unnecessary, but that children in high-risk groups should be vaccinated.

The board includes children from Asia, Africa, South America, Central America, Southern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Finland on the list. These children are in greater danger of contracting tuberculosis than other children, even if they do not visit their parents' native land.

Children of Swedish parents also have become ill. For this reason, vaccination also is recommended for children who are not of foreign origin, but who have been in countries where tuberculosis is common and have had close contact with the local people. This does not include ordinary tourists.

At Least 10,000 Annually

The Social Welfare Board recommended that at least 10,000 children be vaccinated annually. Today only 1,200 to 1,500 are vaccinated. This means that many children in the high-risk category are unprotected. All children are vaccinated against tuberculosis in the eighth grade.

Vaccination at birth was discontinued because the number of cases was extremely low and the vaccination had side effects. Even though immigrants have brought tuberculosis to Sweden, the number of cases in Sweden has dropped each year.

Treatment of the disease, which now occurs at home, consists of an antibiotic program lasting 6 to 12 months.

Over 10 million people in the world today have contagious tuberculosis and 3 million die of the disease each year. In Sweden the death rate from the disease reached a peak in the 1860's and 1870's.

Swedish children were first vaccinated in the 1940's, as a result of which the disease was practically eliminated.

9336

CSO: 5400/2568

BRIEFS

SCHISTOSOMIASIS CONTROL MEASURES--LINDI--Nachingwea District has taken a step to prevent the spread of bilharzia the Regional Medical Officer, Dr. Samwel Mgeni told Shihata. He said the first step involves spraying of chemicals on pools, stagnant water and teaching health education. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 25 Jul 83 p 3]

NEED FOR MALARIA PREVENTION--THE Ministry of Health should draw up a comprehensive programme for fighting malaria which has reached an epidemic proportions, a Mara Regional Party official said in Musoma yesterday. Ndugu Julius Mbula, who is responsible for ideology and political education affairs in the region, was opening a three-day meeting for Maternal and Child Health (MCH) experts from the Ministry of Health. He told the meeting, for MCH experts from the Lake Zone, that many Tanzanians were presently dying of malaria. he said medical personnel, led by experts, should plan a unified programme to eradicate the disease. The ministry should also educate people in the rural areas on preventive measures. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 30 Jul 83 p 1]

ZANZIBAR ANTIMALARIA CAMPAIGN--ZANZIBAR Chief Minister Ramadhani Haji Faki was expected to launch phase one of a massive Anti-Malaria campaign on the Isles last night, Shihata has reported. The campaign begins with Zanzibar Town and will entail environmental cleanliness and the killing of the mosquito larvae. The campaign is in a response to a call made last week by Zanzibar President Aboud Jumbe to authorities to formulate plans for eradicating Malaria on the Isles. The campaign, whose duration is yet to be determined, calls for improvement of sewage system in the Zanzibar municipality. It also calls for eradication of mosquito breeding areas. Residential and commercial buildings will be inspected for cleanliness. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 2 Aug 83 p 3]

CSO: 5400/318

BRIEFS

NEW MALARIA DRUG--Lusaka, Thursday--THE Zambia Tropical Diseases Research Centre based in Ndola has successfully developed a new drug called Mefloquine for the treatment of malaria. The drug, which is currently undergoing tests at the World Health Organisation (WHO) Headquarters in Geneva, is said to have minimal side effects, the Zambian News Agency (ZANA) reported yesterday. According to the Tropical Diseases Research Centre's first annual report just released in Ndola, phase three trials of the double blind randomised comparison of Mefloquine and Chloroquine in 99 adult cases of malaria have been completed and written for publication. The report says that the patients were kept under observation in hospital for 28 to 42 days. The patients were given doses of Mefloquine of 1,000 mg for a day's treatment and Chloroquine was 1,500 mg over three days. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 29 Jul 83 p 1]

CSO: 5400/319

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH FOCI--Only four active foci of foot-and-mouth disease are known at present in the country. They are located in the Bogota savannah in the town of Mosquera, south of the Tibaitata Research Center, reported the national director of the anti-hoof-and-mouth disease campaign of the ICA [Colombian Agricultural-Livestock Institute], Alvaro Calo. He said that it was possible that there is a focus on some Tabio-Tenjo farms, but that as yet this has not been confirmed, and that the disease has not been reported in any other part of the country. For his part, Raul Londono, general manager of the Colombian Veterinary Products Enterprise (VECOL), reiterated that a good vaccine must be used in connection with good standards of health, previously established in the vaccination campaign; that is, that a cycle of steps must be carried out--proper maintenance, the application of the vaccine to all animals on each farm, and the quarantining of those that arrive later. He added that one must not lower one's guard and said that the vaccination percentage against hoof-and-mouth fever throughout the country continues to be low, and attributed this to the low incidence of outbreaks of the dangerous disease in the past 2 years. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 16 Jul 83 p 11-A] 8255

CSO: 5400/2109

SPREADING VARROA MITE AFFECTS APIARIES; ACTION DEMANDED

Nicosia I SIMERINI in Greek 31 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Varroa, a dangerous disease affecting apiaries, has spread throughout Cyprus and threatens to ruin those apiaries which have already been stricken by it. The beekeepers regard the Department of Agriculture as responsible for the propagation of this disease.

Specifically, about a year ago the Department of Agriculture gave a permit to a private party to import honeycombs containing honey from abroad. Along with the honeycombs, the varroa was also brought into Cyprus. As soon as it manifests itself, this disease immobilizes the bees, which stop collecting pollen and become useless to the apiary.

The apiary which was affected first by varroa was located in an area near Limassol. Afterwards another apiary in the same area was also stricken. The Department of Agriculture set fire to these beehives, believing that in this way it would exterminate the disease. But this goal was not achieved, because in the meantime other apiaries also had been stricken, with the result that many apiaries throughout Cyprus have the varroa microbe.

Given these facts, a group of beekeepers from Paphos are preparing to bring lawsuits against the government, from which they will ask for damages, because they consider it to be responsible for the presence of the varroa here. The beekeepers--according to reports received by I SIMERINI--will ask in their suits for monetary indemnifications for the destruction of their apiaries.

12114

CSO: 5400/2570

BRIEFS

ANTHRAX CASES IN AREQUIPA--Arequipa, 18 July (correspondent)--Some of the Arequipa livestock owners are worried at the spotting of isolated cases of anthrax fever in animals that have been grazing on some slopes known as the "Quebrada de Guerreros." In order to prevent the spreading of this disease, the health staff of Agrarian Zone No 8 has set up a sanitary cordon around specific points in said area to prevent the entrance or departure of livestock in those places. This has caused general alarm among livestock owners in the area, and also among the managers of rural properties, since a short time ago it was reported that there was no outbreak of said disease that would endanger the income from livestock in Arequipa. In the face of this emergency, the veterinary medical staff yesterday started an immunization campaign of sheep that were transferred to the slopes of Quilca, Mollendo, Camana, and other sectors. Also the seclusion of sick livestock was implemented. They will be quarantined, to establish the seriousness of the disease, and to determine if there is a need to slaughter those with anthrax fever. Livestock owners in Arequipa believe that the presence of cases of anthrax fever is the result of the use of a type of vaccine against said disease that had not been authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture. Given the emergency, the health authorities are exercising strict control, in order to prevent the spreading of the disease. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 19 July 83 p A 14] 8255

RABIES IN CATS REPORTED--Arequipa, 20 July (correspondent)--Various cases of rabies in cats have been reported by doctors and professional personnel that work in the Goyoneche Hospital, which comes under the health sector. In this connection, a special recommendation was made to the people to remain on guard and to report immediately any case of an attack by a cat. It was also made known that not a single case has been reported of rabies transmitted by a cat. The characteristics of a hydrophobic cat are similar to those of a dog. A big campaign to combat canine and cat rabies is being carried out in the Misti city, both through education in schools and at the level of the media--in writing and on the radio and television. During the rest of this year, it is hoped that it will be possible to eliminate about 30,000 wandering dogs and to immunize another similar number. This year there were three fatal cases of human rabies following extreme suffering. Meanwhile, construction is proceeding on the anti-rabies center, at a cost of 60 million soles, with a contribution from the Departmental Corporation for Development and support from the health sector. That will be the first that will be in service in the south Peruvian region. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 21 July 83 p A-20] 8255

BRIEFS

RINDERPEST CONTROL CAMPAIGN SECOND PHASE--THE European Economic Commission (EEC) has donated 12 Land Rovers and vaccines worth 4,4m/- to Tanzania to be used in the second phase of rinderpest control campaign. Receiving the donation on Saturday the Minister for Livestock Development, Ndugu Herman Kirigini, told EEC official Paul Dewankel that the vehicles and vaccines would greatly speed up the campaign. The Land Rovers and vaccines would be sent to Singida, Kagera, Sinhyanga, Mara, Mwanza, Dodoma, Kigoma, Morogoro and Tabora regions. Phase one of the campaign was launched in May this year, during which 1,7 million head of cattle were vaccinated. The campaign received three million doses of vaccines from FAO. Arusha Region, which was seriously hit by the disease, received much of the aid. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 25 Jul 83 p 1]

CSO: 5400/318

BRIEFS

PIG DISEASES WIDESPREAD--The Pig Breeders & Raisers Association has asked the Livestock Department to act urgently against widespread diseases which have claimed thousands of pigs, valued at about 1,000 million baht, since the beginning of the year, association president Chalernporn Chongvivathanatham said. Mr Chalernporn said that Atrophic Rhinitis and foot and mouth disease have killed thousands of pigs throughout the country. He said the association had told the department of the problem but "so far, no action has been taken by the government unit concerned in this matter." As a result, the diseases have spread all over the country, he said. Mr Chalernporn said that pig raisers have tried to cure the pigs through vaccine shots but, he added, this is another problem as local vaccines are more expensive than imported vaccines. He said that many association members could not afford to buy local vaccines and they have lost thousands of pigs since the beginning of the year. He added that Thailand, which has about 400,000 pig farms raising 3.6 million pigs, would face a live pig shortage if the Government didn't take urgent action to control the diseases. Mr Chalernporn said that live pigs now cost more, from 24 baht a kilo to 29-30 baht a kilo. Mr Chalernporn also urged the Government

to revise the Slaughtering and Meat Selling Act B.E. 2502, to enable the private sector to set up abattoirs. He said an amendment would encourage the private sector to develop abattoir hygiene and to expand the industry. He also said that many local pig farms were of international standard but they could not export their products because of the Government's stringent abattoir regulations. [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Aug 83 p 15]

CSO: 5400/4468

WHO DECLARATION NATION INFESTED WITH SWINE FEVER PROTESTED

Lusaka DAILY MAIL in English 1 Aug 83 p 7

[Excerpt] THE ZAMBIA Pork Products (ZAPP) management has strongly protested to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) insistence that Zambia is a swine-fever infested country.

In a memo dated July 12, this year, which was sent to ZIMCO agro industries department, ZAPP marketing manager, Mr Timothy Lyabola says the declaration made by WHO has badly hampered the company's efforts to export pork products worth K3 million in foreign exchange annually.

Mr Lyabola disagrees that Zambia, as a whole is plagued by swine-fever. The disease, he says, is only confined to the Eastern Province.

"Unless Zambia or at least regions of it, is cleared of swine-fever infestation, it is practically impossible to export pork products to the European Economic Community (EEC) or to African countries which are affiliated to it through the Lome Convention," he says.

He also noted that the EEC health and veterinary directives are at the moment very stringent and that substantial improvements to the existing infrastructure is needed.

Mr Lyabola explains that from the export research surveys conducted by his company in Zaire, Nigeria, Malta and Angola, it is clear that tremendous potential exists for the export of pork products.

ZAPP has the capacity to export 750,000 kilogrammes of a variety of highly improved pork products, he points out

In order to quickly reverse the present situation, the marketing manager has recommended that the Department of Veterinary Services should help to correct the WHO declaration on Zambia.

The Veterinary Department in conjunction with the Ministry of Health should also arrange the inspection of ZAPP factory and its abattoir by the EEC officials with a view to obtaining specific proposals on what areas the company should improve.

Efforts should be made to get the EEC international certificate on its market.

CSO: 5400/317

ANTICORRIDOR DISEASE CHEMICAL, BLACK LEG VACCINE SHORTAGE

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 11 Aug 83 p 5

[Text]

MANY head of cattle will die in Southern Province unless triatix, a chemical used to control corridor disease, is imported before October, acting provincial veterinary officer Dr Satwant Singh warned yesterday.

All the 15 dip-tanks run by the veterinary department in the province are not working because of a critical shortage of the chemical.

Suppliers, Cooper Zambia and Hoechst Zambia, have none in stock, although Cooper is expecting 4,000 litres in about three weeks.

General manager of Cooper Zambia Mr Max Thomson said the consignment of the chemical was now in Durban, South Africa.

Dr Singh, who is in charge of the corridor disease control unit in Monze, said his department was expected to run 15 more new dip-tanks this year. Some of them were built on a self-help basis by villagers.

New areas

"But if we do not get the chemical that we need it will be impossible for us to run the 30 dip-tanks in the province."

Some of the new dip-tanks were in border areas of the disease and if the chemical was not in by October the diseases would spread to new areas.

The tick was not active now in the dry season but it became active during rains.

The department had problems with outbreaks of the black leg disease, sometimes known as black quarter disease, in Choma, Monze and Mazabuka.

Cattle in these areas were dying because there was no vaccine to control the disease.

The Central Research Station at Barmoral in Lusaka which produced some of the vaccine could not meet the demand.

"We need 100,000 doses of the vaccine a year to control the disease fully, but we are supplied with only about 60,000."

A vaccination campaign has been launched against trypanosomiasis disease in Choma and Namwala districts.

Dr Singh said poor grazing of the animals and lack of water could weaken their resistance to diseases. This could complicate the work of the department.

BRIEFS

TRYPANOSOMIASIS DEATHS--More than 800 head of cattle have died from trypanosomiasis--a disease caused by the tsetse fly--in Lwiimba area of Lusaka Rural since the beginning of this year, reports Zana. District governor Mr Maxwell Sibongo appealed to the Party and its Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development, to import drugs to fight the disease. Mr Sibongo said veterinary officials had told him the drugs were out of stock in Zambia. He said a large part of his district is tsetse fly infested. He appealed to Government agencies to eradicate the fly particularly in Chiyaba and Shikabeta. [Text] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 4 Aug 83 p 1]

SWINE FEVER--Swine fever is incurable and Zambia's export drive of pork products will be hampered because the country will perpetually be condemned by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Agriculture and Water Development permanent secretary Mr Namukolo Mukutu said yesterday that although swine fever was concentrated in Eastern Province, the whole country was condemned. Mr Mukutu was commenting on reports that Zambia Pork Products (ZAPP) was facing problems in exporting its products to the European Economic Community and other overseas markets because Zambia has not been cleared by the WHO. He said swine fever, an infectious lung disease of pigs, was incurable and it would be difficult, to convince the international community that "some of our pigs" are not sick. [Excerpt] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 5 Aug 83 p 5]

CSO: 5400/321

GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES TEAM TO MONITOR USE OF PESTICIDES

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 17 Jul 83 p 2

[Text]

The Barbados Ministry of Agriculture has announced the appointment of a two member team to combat the indiscriminate use of pesticides here.

The Ministry's regular newsletter said Miss Afton Bannister and Junior Popwell had been made pesticide control inspectors and unannounced inspections on the use, manufacture, selling, packaging, and storing of these disease and insect control chemicals will soon be made in various areas of Barbados.

Anyone found in breach of the Act will be reported to the Pesticide Control Board. Action may be taken against the violator in the form of a fine not exceeding \$250 and in case of a continuing offence, to a fine not exceeding \$50 each day during which the offence continues.

The article may be forfeited, and stock in other parts of the island could be forfeited as well. The article may be destroyed or modified to bring it to conform to the act or regulations. The accused could also be disqualified from holding or obtaining a license to import, sell or use pesticides, the newsletter said.

Initially, four inspection stages will be pursued: Large importers of pesticides, supermarkets and retail stores, the agricultural sector — Government organisations seed stores, farmers, and plantations — and Privately owned homes where large quantities of pesticides are used or stored.

The sale of pesticides that are banned, the selling of pesticides without an approved licence, inadequate storage of pesticides, the wrongful act of rebottling or repackaging pesticides, unprotected workers that are handling pesticides, and improper labelling are some of the areas which will be investigated.

The main goal of the Ministry is to see that the sellers and users of pesticides are adhering to the standards that have been established to insure public health.

Pesticides are very useful in controlling disease, insects, and other pests, but misuse and abuse of such chemicals can cause harm to human beings and to the environment the newsletter said.

Their use must and will be carefully monitored for the safety of all. (CANA)

CSO: 5400/7596

BRIEFS

RICE BLAST DISEASE--The presence of blast disease in the Corentyne rice industry was raised at a meeting of Regional Council No. 6 recently by PPP member Budhram Mahadeo, who urged the region to adopt prompt measures to combat the disease. He pointed out that "about 200 acres of rice are affected by blast disease and flooding...180 acres damaged by blast, and some 20 acres by flooding" and called for immediate help to farmers to enable them to go for the second crop. The PPP Councillor charged that the disease has taken hold because of the failure of the authorities to provide insecticides on time. Anxious farmers went on several occasions to buy the chemical, but none was available. PNC Councillor Samuels supported Mr. Mahadeo in his views, and called on the Council to help farmers who suffered loss of their rice crop at Nos. 66-77 Villages. After discussing the matter, the Council had no objection. [Text] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 26 Jun 83 p 3]

CSO: 5400/7592

'APPLE SCAB FUNGUS' THREATENS HIMACHAL PRADESH CROP

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Jul 83 p 10

[Text]

KULU, July 12 (UNI) — In this valley of apples, trees are laden with the fruit, but bulk of the crop may fall before ripening and may not reach the market because of the widespread attack of a fungus disease called "apple scab."

There is hardly a single apple orchard free from the scab attack in this 60 km long stretch on the banks of the river Beas which accounts for 70 per cent of Himachal Pradesh's 150,000 tonne apple output.

Apple growers are getting panicky because of a fear that the disease may force them to axe down the apple trees, putting an end to 25 years prosperity brought about by the exotic crop introduced in the State by an American missionary.

Scab attack was first noticed in the State in 1977 and failure to initiate adequate control measures in time has affected almost the entire 45,000 hectare apple growing region including the Kulu valley.

The growers are aware that the disease virtually killed the apple orchards in Kashmir valley during the past ten years. Efforts to develop a scab resistant variety of apple plant have not yet succeeded in India. Even in Sweden and the United States where the disease sprang up earlier, it took about 15 years to develop a scab resistant variety and revive apple cultivation.

Scab attack first appears on the apple leaves as tiny grey spots and soon spreads to the tender fruits. The leaves fall down and the fruits get stunted and malformed. Some of them even fall down.

However, the ones which manage to ripen do not show any deterioration in taste and are fit for consumption. But the spotted and malformed apples will not fetch even half the normal price the growers used to get. The apples will also lose the consumer appeal. As one wholesale trader said, "apples may be plenty this year, but few would like to buy them because of the scab."

Effective fungicides spray can save the crop if it is sprayed in the initial stages. The affected fallen leaves have to be burned to avoid getting a repeat attack.

The State Government initiated certain measures against the scab attack, but they were not effective because of the scattered spread of the growing region in side the Himalayan hills and valleys. Growers also did not show the needed enthusiasm as they did not realise the seriousness and extent of the potential damage.

The State Horticulture Department officials maintain that the farmers would get fair prices for the crop, as the malformed fruits would still be in demand from the juice and jam making industry.

BRIEFS

FRUITFLY THREAT--The Government has launched a programme to combat the fruitfly causing extensive damage in farms all over the country. Farmers are being advised on the preventive measures they must take. They have been asked to avoid adding sugar or any other matter to insecticides before spraying them on the crops. They have also been told to get in touch with agriculture guidance centres if the crop is affected. Dr. Abdul Munim al-Majini, Incharge of the Agricultural Research Centre in Rumais and Engineer Abdul Munim Mukhtar, who is doing research on insects, have been taking keen interest in the subject. They say that the fruitfly is found in several parts of the world. The variety found in Oman is called oriental fruitfly. It is also found in California, East Asia, the Philipines and Taiwan. It disfigures fruits like guava, mango, banana, apricot and, sometimes, cofeebeans. [Text] [Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 4 Aug 83 p 6]

CSO: 5400/4528

NEW METHOD OF INSECT CONTROL TO BE TRIED IN PUNJAB

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Jul 83 p 6

[Text] KARACHI, July 27: Field tests will be carried out later this year in Punjab to test the effectiveness in local climate conditions of a few method of controlling the breeding of the pink bollworm—an insect which preys on growing cotton, without the use of pesticides.

The new technique, which has already been tried successfully in America and Egypt, interferes in the reproductive cycle of the insect by artificially manufacturing "Pheromones" released by female Pink bollworms to attract members of the opposite sex.

After being sprayed on the growing cotton, the artificial Pheromones confuse the male bollworms and make it difficult for them to locate the females, thus preventing the breeding of a new generation of the insects on any major scale.

Details about this new method were disclosed by Dr. D.G. Campion, a specialist attached to the Centre for Overseas Pest Research, London, who left here today for home on the conclusion of a weeklong visit to Pakistan.

Dr. Campion's visit was sponsored by the British Government and his time here was spent mostly at the Cotton Research Institute at Multan, which is run by the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC).

The English scientist said the new technique had been evolved through research carried out over the past decade both at the Overseas Pest Research Centre at London and in a similar American institution.

This technique has been used with significant success over fairly large cotton-growing area in both California (USA) and Egypt, and is to be extended to an entire province in the later country next year.

The new method has already undergone very limited scale tests in Pakistan last year at the Multan Cotton Research Institute and on a farm of a progressive farmer in the same region.

During the coming September this technique will be tested on a wider scale at about 4,000 acres at the Multan Institute and some private farms nearby.

Dr. Campion said two main advantages of this new method were that it did away with the need to rely on pesticides, which are highly toxic and cause rural pollution besides killing or badly stunting the growth of cotton if

used in over-large quantities.

The second advantage of the technique is its appreciably lower cost. Furthermore, the artificial Pheromones can be sprayed easily over the growing cotton both aerially and by hand, as is the case with pesticides.

Experiments are currently underway to test the feasibility of coating plastic cakes with the artificial Pheromones and placing them among the cotton patches by hand.

The female Pink bollworm is very precise about laying her fertilised eggs, in batches of about 50 to 100 directly on the cotton boll or the plants stem so that it is difficult to kill the larvae with pesticides, since too large a dose might finish off the plant itself.

The artificial Pheromones keep their effectiveness for three to four weeks. Future experiments will concentrate on devising similar technique for dealing with other varieties of the Bollworm family (spotted etc).

Prior to his departure for London, Dr. Campion met Dr. Heshamul Haque, vice-president of the PCCC, and discussed matters concerning pest eradication with him.

He will return here this September to supervise the extended field tests of this new pest control technique. —APP

CSO: 5400/4736

BRIEFS

TERMITES PLAGUE FARMERS--THE severe drought which has gripped the Northern Cape has brought with it a plague of termites and farmers have appealed to the Government for help in eliminating the insects. Mr P richardson, a zoologist at the McGregor Museum, said large areas of the veld had already been overrun by termites, which thrived on the dry grass. Under the drought conditions, the termites had to spend less time repairing their underground tunnels and, therefore, had more time to collect food. With more food available, the colony bred and expanded, Mr Richardson said. 'Termite holes are very small and it is almost impossible to find the nest and the only way to get rid of them is to poison the grass which is very costly,' Mr Richardson said. As soon as there are good rains, the grass will become wet and green and the termite colonies will shrink.' Mr Richardson said the problem was caused by overgrazing and a decrease in the number of the insect's natural predators, which was further aggravated by the drought. 'An aardwolf can eat up to one million termites in one night but these animals are often shot by farmers who do not appreciate their good qualities. The best way to eliminate termites is by good farm management. In nature animals are very seldom a pest--it is only by overstocking and killing their natural predators that they become pests', Mr Richardson said. [Kimberley DIAMOND FIELDS ADVERTISER in English 13 Jul 83 p 5]

CSO: 5400/320

THAILAND

BRIEFS

RICE WORMS IN NORTHEAST--Paddy fields in several northern and northeastern provinces have been severely destroyed by rice worms during the past few weeks, officials of the Agriculture Ministry reported yesterday. Four of provinces hardest-hit by rice worms are Sukhothai, Nakhon Sawan, Kalasin and Khon Kaen. A senior agriculture official in Khon Kaen, Mr Suvit Vivatthavorn, said the worms have spread to over 100,000 rai since late last month. He said rice worms went on the rampage in the province following "Sarah", which brought humidity and heavy rainfalls. He added that the worms have spread throughout the entire northeastern region, but "the situation is serious in only some provinces." The Agriculture Ministry said each province has spent 200,000-300,000 baht on chemicals to get rid of the worms. Mrs Pranom Pisont, an agriculture official in Kalasin, meanwhile, reported that over 100,000 rai of rice in 11 districts and three sub-districts in the province have been damaged by rice worms. The situation is improving now, she added. In Sukhothai, officials said the worms have spread to 47,328 rai planted in rice and 24,137 rai of beans in the province. A provincial official, Mr Vichai Piamlabchoetkul, predicted that agricultural production in the province would drop by 20 percent this year. [Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 6 Aug 83 p 3]

CSO: 5400/4468

VIETNAM

BRIEFS

BINH TRI THIEN ARMYWORMS--Almost 22,700 hectares of summer-fall rice in Binh Tri Thien Province have been ravaged by rice armyworms. The local agricultural and water conservancy sectors and the province's vegetation protection service are supervising various cooperatives to promptly eliminate these harmful insects, using all available equipment. Thanks to their efforts, the province has saved more than 10,000 hectares from damage and has sprayed insecticide on 23,100 additional hectares to prevent the insects from spreading. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 10 Aug 83 BK]

CSO: 5400/4462

END